

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13 and 20-65 remain in the application, of which claims 20-30 and 38-61 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Chambers for taking time to discuss this application during the telephone interviews on June 17, 2003 and July 17, 2003. During those telephone interviews, the undersigned and Examiner Chambers discussed the pending claims versus the Adams reference, as well as potential amendments to some of the claims.

Claims 1, 4-12, 31-33, 35-37, 62 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over USPN 6,166,452 to Adams et al. Claims 64 and 65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,341,562 to Brisighella in view of Adams. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of USPN 6,403,887 to Kebabjian.

Claims 1 and 64, as amended, recite "a bus controller connected to said plurality of pyrotechnic devices through said network, said bus controller being operative to selectively address, with a single command, one or more of said pyrotechnic devices using said unique identifiers, whereby a single command can be used to address as few as one and as many as all of the pyrotechnic devices that are connected to the network." (Emphasis added). As was set forth in the response mailed May 19, 2003 and during the telephone interviews, Adams only discloses an addressing scheme which uses a "unique" command for each device. (See, Adams, col. 5, lines 33-44).

Adams does not disclose or suggest an addressing scheme where "a single command can be used to address as few as one and as many as all of the pyrotechnic devices that are connected to the network," as recited in claims 1 and 64. Moreover, neither Brisighella nor Kebabjian overcome the deficiencies of Adams. Therefore, claims 1 and 64 (and their dependent claims 4-13, 31, 32 and 65) are patentable over Adams, taken alone or in combination with Brisighella or Kebabjian.

Regarding claims 33 and 34, Applicants request that Examiner Chambers reconsider the arguments set forth in the Response of May 19, 2003. Specifically, as is set forth on page 6 of the May 19 Response, and as was explained during the telephone interviews, claims 33 and 34 recite "means for altering an analog condition of the network to a firing condition . . . storing activation energy in the associated pyrotechnic device if the digital arming command includes the unique identifier of the logic device; and releasing the stored activation energy into the initiator of its associated pyrotechnic device if both (1) the analog condition of the network has been modified to the firing condition and (2) the digital firing command includes the unique identifier of the logic device." (Support for this claim can be found in the specification at page 18, line 17 through page 19, line 11). Hence, before a given pyrotechnic device can be fired, it is necessary to both modify an analog network condition and issue a firing command that includes the unique identifier for the logic device of that specific pyrotechnic device. This claimed feature enhances safety by reducing the possibility of erroneously firing a pyrotechnic device. Adams does not disclose or suggest this claimed combination. Hence, claims 33 and 34 are patentable over Adams.

Claim 35 recites a networked ordnance system wherein the energy reserve capacitors of the pyrotechnic devices in the system "are charged in approximately 5 milliseconds or less." After careful review, Applicants can discern no teaching or suggestion in Adams of a networked ordnance system wherein the energy reserve capacitors in the pyrotechnic devices "are charged in approximately 5 milliseconds or less." There is no explicit description of this claim feature in Adams, nor is this claim feature inherent in Adams. Therefore, claims 35-37 are patentable over Adams.

Claims 62 recites "a bus controller connected to the plurality of pyrotechnic devices through the network, the bus controller being operative for assigning the unique identifiers to the logic devices," a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested in Adams. Claim 63 depends from claim 62 and further specifies "the bus controller is operative for assigning the unique identifiers to the logic devices each time the networked electronic ordnance system is powered up," a feature that is also not disclosed or suggested in Adams. As was previously explained, these claimed features are beneficial because they provide flexibility in how the addressing schemes can be structured and implemented. Hence, claims 62 and 63 are patentable over Adams.

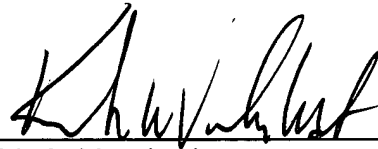
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In view of the above, claims 1, 4-13, 31-37 and 62-65 are believed to be in condition for allowance. No fees are believed to be due in connection with this submission. Please charge any applicable fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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